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FRANK L. HOGGS.....MANAGER.

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1906

A. T. Atkinson And His Life Work

The death of Alatau T. Atkinson has called forth appreciative editorial utterances from practically the entire island press. In all there is stress laid on the influence he wielded as an educator. Scarcely a feature of the educational system of Hawaii can be mentioned which does not bear in some way the impress of his mind, either as originating or vitalizing it. But no enumeration of the individual achievements of his career, however complete, and highly creditable as these are, would in any degree do justice to his life-work, without a recognition and appreciation of the key-note to which all his endeavor was attuned—without a recognition of the prophetic ideal which he held throughout his career, of the vision of the Hawaii of the future which illumined his soul. It is high praise to say of a man that he made English the language of instruction in all the public schools of these islands; that he made the public school system a free school system; that he created the Normal School; that he rehabilitated Lahaialuna, and set it on the path toward greater usefulness even than has crowned its honorable past; that he established industrial reformatory schools for juvenile offenders; and that in innumerable ways he built up the school system of Hawaii. And these may all be said of Alatau T. Atkinson, not as having worked them all out alone, for he would be the last one to flinch credit from the many others, who before him and with him have done noble and honorable service.

But after all these are only the incidents of his labors, and his career. He had a loftier vision of what might be, and it was to bring about the reality of his vision that these and many other things of progress were accomplished.

He foresaw the time when in the progress of the world a stage no less expansive than the great Pacific would be required for the drama of its vast activity. The narrow Mediterranean was an ample stage for the commerce and activities of the ancient world. The modern world required the larger Atlantic. The Pacific, whose littoral is peopled with by far the larger portion of the human race is the stage of the future.

Mr. Atkinson had keen vision of this. He had keen vision too, of the great part Hawaii might play in this unfolding drama, situated as she is almost in the center of this great expanse. But he saw also that to play a great part, Hawaii must have preparation. It was to prepare Hawaii for her highest possibilities, that he set himself. It was this ideal, and this vision that unifies all the activities of his life. It correlates all his achievements.

For such possibilities as he foresaw for Hawaii it was needful that she have a world language. No great destiny was possible for an isolated people speaking a little known tongue having neither a literature, nor a vocabulary of commerce or science. Hence he set himself to give her the needed language, and this was the purpose of his long continued and indomitable effort to make English the language of instruction in the schools—the language of the land and all the inhabitants thereof. If Hawaii were to accomplish her high destiny, every faculty and gift of all her people must be given the best possible training and opportunity. She would need all her strength, and the strength of all her people. To this end her schools must be free, that no son or daughter, gifted with capacity to help, should be lost to the country through failure to cultivate those gifts. Free schools teaching the English language, opening to youth the treasure of Anglo-Saxon speech and civilization, required a teaching body properly fitted and trained. Hence the normal school and the normal school system and every phase and feature of that system which could be advantageously added. Nothing was too good, nothing undesirable, which could add to the efficiency of the teaching and instructing body in the islands; which could bring to its highest usefulness every gift of mind and heart of every teacher in the public schools.

In such a conception of preparation the proper care and training of the unfortunate and the defective portion of the youth of the land has a natural and a proper place. Hence reformatory schools for juvenile offenders, where the hand as well as the mind, and the mind and heart, through the hand, should be taught, were natural sequences in his ideal of preparation.

Industrial training was in his mind a vital part of any worthy system of public instruction, and no one incident of his administration of the school system—after the fundamentals of instruction in English in a free school system—gave him greater personal pleasure than the rehabilitation of Lahaialuna.

To his mind the preparation which Hawaii needed for the high destiny he pictured, could not be secured unless her school system was in touch with the outer world—felt the breath of progress going on elsewhere. Hence his efforts to secure for the summer and teachers' schools eminent educators—efforts which were too often thwarted by want of means. For this same reason, also he was cordial in welcoming teachers of experience and enthusiasm from other countries, yet being always firm in the belief that the best teaching body must always be that raised right up from among our own people, knowing the people and in sympathy with them.

But Mr. Atkinson was not merely an educator through the school system. He was an educator through the press and from the platform. And in this as in his more strictly educational work he was guided by the same lofty ideal. What he did and what he wrought was done and wrought to prepare Hawaii for her destiny. It is this that harmonizes his political and journalistic work and energies with his school work. Each were parts of one unity of purpose. Hawaii must progress along all lines of advancement if she were to reach the place he had dreamed for her. Hence when reactionary policies in government seemed to him to halt her in that progress, he turned politician to work with others to overturn such policies and to substitute for reaction and retrogression, advancement and progress. Convinced that circumstances had inevitably linked the destiny of Hawaii with that of the United States of America, he wrought, in season and out of season, to make the political alliance secure and permanent. Abandoning for the time his duties as school master he took up the editorial pen and through the medium of journalism did master work for annexation. To him more than to any other one man, it is due, that during the long period of waiting which followed the first enthusiastic hopes of annexation, the determination to unite Hawaii's fortunes with those of America, never faltered.

No real appreciation of Alatau T. Atkinson's life work, of what he sought and what he accomplished, can be felt unless his work is viewed in the light of his large and ultimate purpose. Enthusiastically fond of Hawaii, he believed it possible for her to achieve a great and glorious destiny. To prepare her to achieve and fulfill that destiny was the animating ideal of his life. Into this ideal fits every incident of a round of achievement, which, considered alone, would have made a worthy life work for any man. To that ideal he devoted great talents, an indomitable energy, an enthusiasm that never failed or faltered, and a luminous zeal. Who shall say that he has not achieved his ideal?

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In some hands, even the Deadly Parallel is harmless.

Navigators arriving at San Francisco, including our own Macfarlane, will probably think their instruments have gone wrong and steered them up against the coast of Chile.

The Manila Cable News has the following editorial:

"Hawaii is urging upon Washington that the island territory should have the benefit of the revenue of \$1,200,000 annually that the federal government is withdrawing. The Hawaiians claim that the islands need improvements and that a share of appropriations equal to the revenue contributed should be spent there.

"It might not be a bad idea for the federal government to adopt this rule throughout the United States. It would be more of a square deal than the present system of distributing the appropriation for public improvements."

FOREIGN NEWS OF INTEREST.

At a meeting in Somerset, England, it was stated that, although illegal, the custom still prevails of giving elder in lieu of wages.

The light colored Malacca cane, with gold or silver knob and cord and tassels, such as Beau Brummel twirled, is a recent arrival in London.

The Rev. Silvester Horne has a billiard room at Whitefield Tabernacle, London, says the Ram's Horn, and he says it has been the best recruiting ground for his church.

The Island of Capri possesses a unique cave of the blues, wherein the air is like a twilight of blue fire and waves, and grotto walls, and boats, and people—everything and every one—look blue.

Paris automobile owners must make two declarations at the prefecture of police, one as to the type of vehicle and power of the motor, and the other for obtaining permission to drive after examination.

A bull entered a china shop at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, England, the other day, took a walk around, surveyed the display with apparent interest and depart-

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The largest consignment of silver ever taken to England, weighing 70 tons, was landed at Southampton from the American liner New York. The metal was in 972 bars, inclosed in 353 boxes, and its value is \$250,000.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

When the Senate has been so torn by conflicting emotions that Allison and Aldrich are voting different ways it's a serious tear.

New Jersey is to be congratulated on the abolition of hanging, as this must abolish also the creature known there as the "official hangman."

General von Mack, a Russian, says that Japan is getting ready to fight America. He has been in Japan himself. Perhaps the saki makes him talk this way.

Miss Wood's lingering action against Senator Platt and Secretary Loeb has been dismissed. The lady held no trumps with her long suit.

A man who just committed suicide in New York is said to have been a brother of Marie Corelli, but doubtless he had other reasons.

It seems that a law against the sale of cigarettes to boys has been discovered. It was found dead.

While the allegation is made confidently in Washington that there is no graft in the police department of that city, it is well to remember that Steffens has not passed on the matter yet.

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